

National Security Presidential Directive-44

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is NSPD-44?

National Security Presidential Directive 44 (NSPD-44) was issued by President George W. Bush on December 7, 2005, to promote the security of the United States through improved coordination, planning, and implementation of reconstruction and stabilization (R&S) assistance for foreign states and regions at risk of, in, or in transition from conflict or civil strife. The Directive states that the Secretary of State shall coordinate and lead integrated United States Government efforts, involving all U.S. Departments and Agencies with relevant capabilities, to prepare, plan for, and conduct stabilization and reconstruction activities.

What is the objective of this Directive?

The Directive is intended to improve capabilities that will enable the U.S. to help governments abroad exercise sovereignty over their own territories and to prevent those territories from being used as a base of operations or safe haven for extremists, terrorists, organized crime groups, or others who pose a threat to U.S. foreign policy, security, or economic interests.

What are the key components of this Directive?

NSPD-44 directs the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, as delegated by the Secretary of State, to lead USG development of a strong civilian R&S response to:

- Develop strategies for reconstruction and stabilization activities; provide U.S. decision makers with detailed options for R&S operations; ensure program and policy coordination among U.S. Departments and Agencies; lead coordination of reconstruction and stabilization activities and preventative strategies with bilateral partners, international and regional organizations, and nongovernmental and private sector entities.
- Coordinate interagency processes to identify states at risk of instability, lead interagency initiatives to prevent or mitigate conflict, develop detailed contingency plans for integrated U.S. reconstruction and stabilization, and provide U.S. decision makers with detailed options for an integrated U.S. response.
- Lead U.S. development of a strong civilian response capability; analyze, formulate and recommend authorities, mechanisms and resources for civilian responses in coordination with key interagency implementers such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); coordinate R&S budgets among Departments and Agencies; identify lessons learned and integrate them into operational planning by responsible agencies.

Does NSPD-44 apply to U.S. military forces?

Depending on the situation, reconstruction and stabilization operations can be conducted with or without U.S. military engagement. NSPD-44 directs the Secretary of State to coordinate with the Secretary of Defense to ensure harmonization of civilian R&S activities with any planned or ongoing U.S. military operations across the spectrum of conflict. Department of Defense Directive 3000.05 establishes how DOD will address and develop its functions for stability, security, transition and reconstruction, and commits the Defense Department to supporting U.S. reconstruction and stabilization efforts.

What about coordination with the rest of the U.S. Government?

A broad range of expertise from multiple agencies, particularly those with operational experience in post-conflict reconstruction and stabilization is required to meet our objectives. NSPD-44 calls on each agency to participate in fulfilling these objectives. Many departments and agencies from across the U.S. Government have participated in the development of new planning and implementation tools for R&S activities. For example, the new Civilian Response Corps is designed to include representatives from the Department of State, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of the Treasury, and USAID.

How are other countries and international institutions involved?

Currently, international and non-governmental partners are cultivating an environment of unprecedented collaboration to build global capacity for conflict prevention and management. NSPD-44 directs the Secretary of State to develop strategies to build partnership security capacity abroad, seek to maximize international resources for reconstruction and stabilization, and coordinate R&S activities and preventative strategies with foreign countries, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and private entities that can contribute to such efforts.

How robust is the current USG civilian capacity to respond?

- *Civilian Response Capabilities:* Over a decade of operational experience has underscored the need for a civilian field presence in the very first stages of a stabilization and reconstruction mission. S/CRS has been working with civilian agencies and the military to develop concepts for providing the U.S. with deployable civilian teams for R&S that can embed with the military or operate independently. On July 16, 2008, Secretary of State Rice formally launched the Civilian Response Corps (CRC), currently including an Active Component of “first responders” and a Standby Component of additional USG personnel who are trained and available to support R&S missions.

- Additionally, the State Department proposes to build a Reserve Component, whose members would be drawn from the private sector and state and local governments across the United States, with expertise in the range of processes necessary in a transition from crisis including: policing and rule of law, infrastructure development, economic stabilization, state and local governance, agriculture, and provision of basic services. S/CRS has developed models for teams of civilian technical experts who can be deployed immediately with or without the military to jumpstart activities critical to a transition. To facilitate long-term implementation of assistance programs, S/CRS is developing a comprehensive network of skills available through contracts and rosters to strengthen its capacity to respond to crises; mobilize expert staff; participate in deployed teams; and assist with planning, policy exercises, and training.

Does S/CRS have its own "conflict response" fund? What has it accomplished?

[Section 1207 of the FY2006 National Defense Authorization Act](#) authorized the Secretary of Defense to transfer up to \$100 million to the Secretary of State to fund reconstruction and stabilization programs. This 1207 transfer authority acts as a conflict prevention fund for S/CRS, which has been designated by the Secretary of State to coordinate 1207 project review and oversight on behalf of the Department of State. In close coordination with DOD, USAID, and the State Department's Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance, S/CRS selects proposals to fund under 1207. In Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2007, DOD transferred \$110 million to State for eight different projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Projects recommended for funding should clearly advance U.S. security interests by promoting regional stability and/or building governance capacity of foreign partners to address conflict, instability, and sources of terrorism.

Congress renewed the 1207 transfer authority for one year in the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. In July of this year, another 9 projects totaling \$100 million were recommended for funding. All indications are that Congress will renew this authority in Fiscal Year 2009, possibly at a higher level. With Congressional funding of the Civilian Response Corps in the Fiscal Year 2008 supplemental, the challenge in Fiscal Year 2009 will be to use 1207 in an integrated way with surge staffing to respond to conflict prevention and stability needs.

What has S/CRS done to improve the way the USG will respond to future crises?

- *Interagency Management System:* In March 2007, the National Security Council approved the Interagency Management System for Reconstruction and Stabilization (IMS). The IMS is a system designed to provide policymakers in Washington, COMs, and military commanders with flexible tools to achieve: integrated planning processes for unified USG strategic and implementation plans, including funding requests; joint interagency field deployments; and, a joint civilian operations capability including shared communications and information management. The IMS is intended to be used for highly complex crises and operations which are national or security priorities, involve widespread instability, may require military operations,

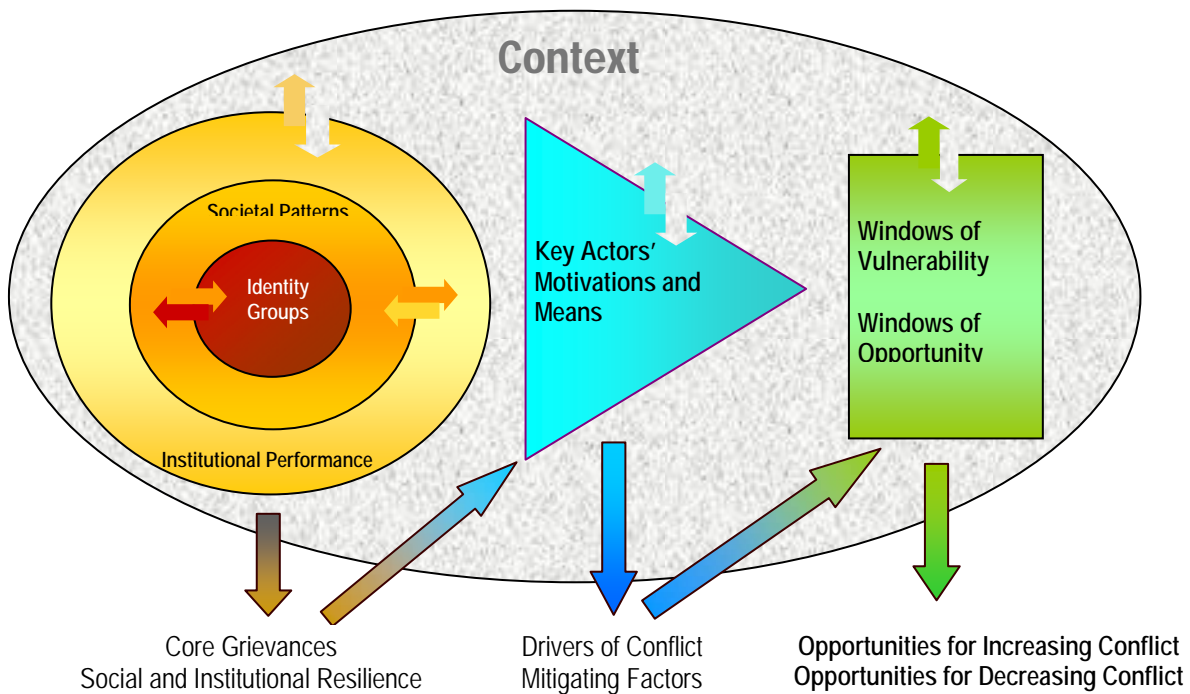
and where multiple U.S. agencies will be engaged in the policy and programmatic response.

- *Planning Process:* S/CRS has led the interagency development of a common planning framework for current and potential reconstruction and stabilization crises. *The USG Planning Framework for Reconstruction, Stabilization and Conflict Transformation* has been used for civilian planning in a variety of countries. In addition to real world application, the Framework also has been used in civil-military exercises and experiments. The *Principles of the USG Planning Framework* was approved by the senior-level interagency Committee of Deputies and codifies the key principles, decision points, and processes to be used in planning for R&S operations. The *Principles* will be supplemented by a comprehensive planning guide for practitioners, which is nearing completion. The *Planning Framework* is used for planning in support of achieving transformation in a country or region that is at-risk, in, or emerging from conflict. The goal of this approach, referred to as “conflict transformation,” is to reach the point where the country or region is on a *sustainable positive trajectory*, where it is able to address on its own the dynamics causing civil strife and/or violent conflict.
- *Early Warning and Prevention:* Closing the gap between early warning and early response is a key challenge. S/CRS is working to inject conflict prevention and mitigation into mainstream foreign policy processes. The National Intelligence Council now bi-annually prepares a list of countries at risk of instability. It is reviewed within the policy community to identify countries where early attention could help prevent or mitigate a crisis. S/CRS is also using policy exercises, roundtables, and simulations to bring together U.S., international and non-governmental experts to consult and foster consensus on policy approaches for prevention.
- *Interagency Conflict Assessment Framework:* On July 15, 2008 the Stabilization and Reconstruction Policy Coordinating Committee for the USG approved the *Principles of the Interagency Conflict Assessment Framework* (ICAF).

Meeting as a Working Group formalized under NSPD-44, representatives from S/CRS, USAID Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, Department of Defense Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Forces Command and the Army War College Peacekeeping Stability Operations Institute and the U.S. Institute for Peace’s division of Conflict Prevention and Post Conflict Peace and Stability agreed on the nature, scope and structure for an interagency process for assessing conflict and drafted the approved document. The ICAF is consonant with the major conflict assessment frameworks and tools currently in use and is the first truly interagency focused assessment.

The ICAF process enables an interagency team to systematically and collaboratively assess and understand conflict situations and make recommendations for USG interagency planning for conflict prevention and mitigation as well as stabilization.

It is a simple and flexible tool that can be used by the full range of USG agencies at any level of planning. Its major components are the conflict diagnosis and pre-planning steps. After performing an ICAF, the interagency will have developed a shared understanding of the dynamics that contribute to the continuance or worsening of a country's conflict as well as those that manage or mitigate the conflict.



- *Building on Current Efforts:* The State Department, USAID and other U.S. agencies, have a base of experience assisting countries to move from conflict toward sustainable peace. The U.S. is actively engaged in defense cooperation, regional security, humanitarian assistance, job creation, economic cooperation, rule of law, democratic governance, human rights, and other important initiatives. NSPD-44 strengthens U.S. capacity to develop and implement integrated U.S. responses, coordinated with international and non-governmental partners
- *Planning Process:* S/CRS is developing a common planning framework, to provide the blueprints for a U.S. response to conflict. The framework has been used for civilian planning in a variety of countries. With further development and experimentation, it may also form the basis for integrated civilian-military planning. The planning process allows for a unified national strategy for conflict transformation, rather than a collection of agency responses.
- *Country Engagement:* S/CRS has coordinated strategic planning for U.S. efforts in Sudan, Haiti, Kosovo, and other countries in concert with regional bureaus in the State Department, the NSC and interagency partners. Using tools such as the

planning framework, the coordinated process has brought together strategic guidance and resources to address conflict transformation goals.